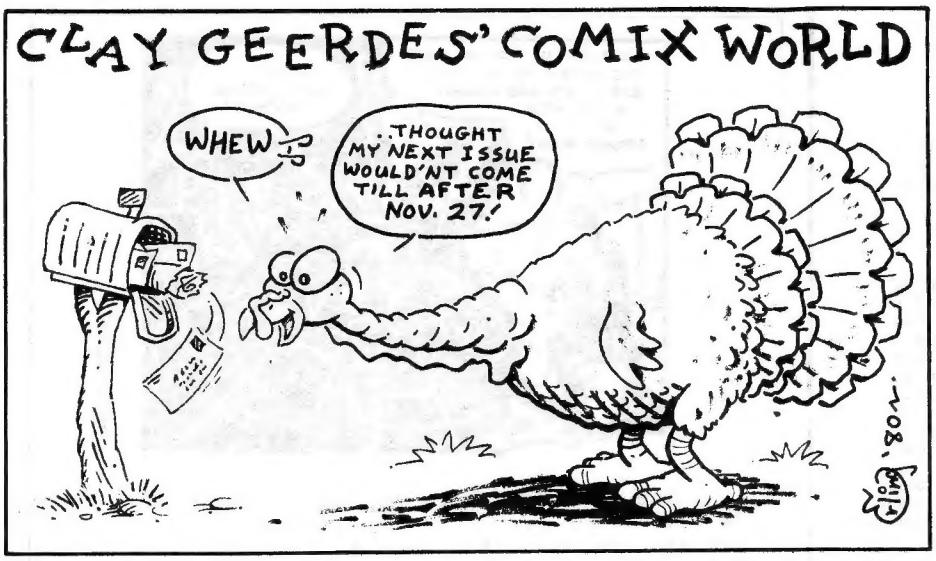
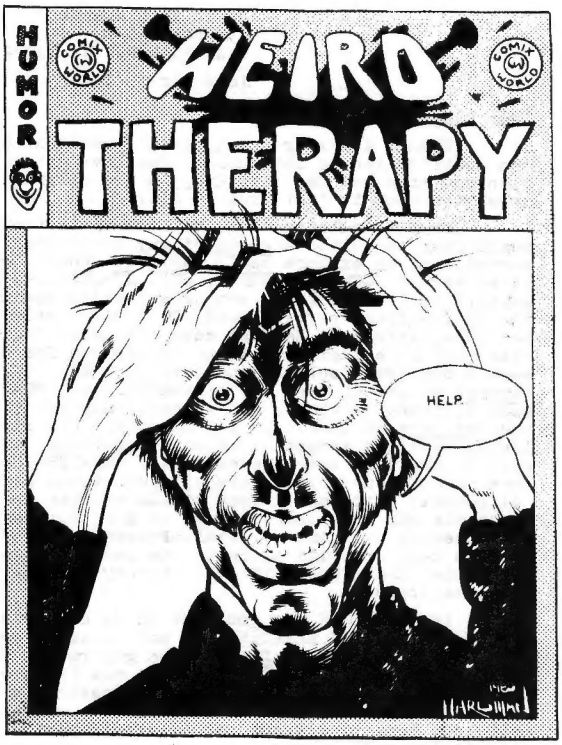



COMIX WORLD 159, November 15, 1980. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Logo by George "Yikes!" Erling. Erling is to the Newave what Crumb was to the Underground.* Subs to COMIX WORLD: $10 for 48 issues. Special holiday offer to members--a gift subscription for a friend for only $8 when you renew. NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE in 1980. Next mailing will be January 1981. Coming up in January--Comix World's Guide to Newave Comix, the most complete listing yet of all newave zines by the artists who did them.* Media corruption notes: Seeing Jimmy Carter throw in the towel on t-v long before the West Coast polls were closed interfered with the election process and the big networks ought to have their wrists slapped.* A lot of us loved Steve McQueen and the great movies he did during his short 50 years and seeing a major network turn his death into an anti-laetrile rap was insulting. McQueen tried Laetrile as a last resort and so what? His death sentence was passed by cigarettes. Bugged me to hear all that hogwash about laetrile and nothing about smoking which has killed so many good people.* Our local hip rock and roll station, KSAN, where we could always count on a good dylan or Dead hit is going all Country-Western. R. I. P.* Down below: The two latest nostalgic bondage and cheesecake books from Belier Press: 1) the fourth volume of Irving Klaw's bondage photos (some really funny stuff in that one, ladies tied to chairs! very kinky and far out!) and 2) More Private Peeks at Betty Page (very cheeky). They sell for $9 first class mail from Belier Press, P. O. Box "C", Gracie Station, NYC 10028.* The latest minis are WEIRD THERAPY, a solo by Garry Hardman (50¢/stamp from CW), BABYFAT 17 and 18, Par Holman's TWO-CYSTED TAILS. I found that 1937 SMILIN' JACK and thought I'd show some of you younger folks what great stuff Zack Mosley was doing in those days. Zack's still around. You can get his biography, BRAVE COWARD ZACK for $8.75 from him, P. O. Box 375, Stuart, FLA 33495.* The RICK GRIFFIN book is out. Written by Gordon McClelland, it's not complete, but good stuff. C.G.

NOV-DEC UNDERGROUND COMIX

RIP OFF COMIX AND STORIES 7
THE BEST OF RIP OFF PRESS 4
YOUNG LUST 6
ZIPPY STORIES 3
TITS 'N' CLITS 6
DR. ATOMIC 6
and maybe a new
DR. WIRTHAM's COMIX AND STORIES!

SMILIN' JACK
LI'L WED-HEAD WUBY WANTS TO JOIN YOUR FLYIN' CIRCUS!
SORRY---WE DON'T NEED ANY ONE!
WHY, YOU COULD HARDLY GIT IN TH' COCK-PIT WITH THET OLD TIMEY DRESS AN' BUSTLE!
OH, SIR--PLEASE GIVE LI'L WUBY A CHANCE--HER CAN DO SWELL TRICKS!
OKAY-
WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!
SHE'S CLIMBIN' OUT TER WING-WALK! CAREFUL WUBY!
OH! SHE'S FELL OFF--- AN' WITH OUT NO PARY-CHUTE!
O-OH--- THIS IS HORRIBLE! I CAN'T BEAR TER LOOK!
SHE'S FALLING SO FAST HER DRESS HAS BLOWN OFF--
---BUT SHE'S GOT ON TIGHTS--AN' WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS A BUSTLE WAS HER---
!?!
...PARACHUTE!

88-11 34th Avenue
Apartment 5-D
Jackson Hts., NY 11372

November 5, 1980

Dear Clay,

Thanks for your complimentary remarks about my own contribution to GAY COMIX. But I've got to argue with you when you say that Krupp's pro otional statement about the book is "not true at all."

Krupp's catalog says, "GAY COMIX is the first comic book to invite a group of gay or bisexual cartoonists to explore their feelings about the gay experience." COME OUT COMIX, DYKE SHORTS, and DYNAMITE DAMSELS--all of which we enthusiastically acknowledge on the inside-front-cover of GAY COMIX--were solo efforts, not group efforts. Because each expressed the single viewpoint of either Mary Wings or Roberta Gregory, they were a different sort of endeavor from GAY COMIX, in which diverse points of view are presented. GAY HEARTTHROBS uses different artists, but is certainly not focused on the feelings of these artists about the experience of living as a gay person. The dominant focus (if you can call it that) of both issues of GAY HEARTTHROBS which I have seen is (a) crudely graphic depictions of sex, and (b) general campiness. Some of the stories are not even about the gay experience per se at all, but rather portray heterosexual sex games or star-crossed transvestites. (Not to deny drag its place in the gay subcultural spectrum, but in GAY HEARTTHROBS it's an O'Henry gimmick, titillating but unexplored.)

In GAY COMIX the goal was to do something very different from GAY HEARTTHROBS, and it is a groundbreaker in its focus on how it feels to be gay rather than how it looks to act "queer". The blurb in the Krupp catalog was not written carelessly; none of the previous underground comix which you cite are what GAY COMIX aspires to be: an anthology book of all-gay (or bisexual) cartoonists dealing with feelings rather than fucking. This is not to deny any merit that may exist in earlier references to gayness in underground comix. Certainly the efforts of Mary Wings and Roberta Gregory are admirable, and Rand Holmes' Harold Hedd two-pager represents one of the peaks of personal and artistic courage to appear in the UG medium.

That's all for now. Thanks again for giving attention to GAY COMIX in COMIX WORLD.

Yours,

Howard

COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY! MAN! YOU ARE CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF... SPIDER MAN!
...STICKY!.... CAN'T BREAK LOOSE!
WHIZ COMICS

The idea of insect-men goes back to the days of Hugo Gernsbach, but the specific SPIDER MAN who preceded the Ditko sixties is to be found in WHIZ COMICS #89 (September, 1947). In "Captain Marvel and the Webs of Crime," Spider Man is the villain, a nasty character with Spockian ears and a long nose and a hairy body whose webs cause lots of problems for Captain Marvel and the good folks he represents in his fight against crime. No psychological subtleties here. No second-hand Freud. This Spider man wraps Billy Batson up in webbing and turns his pet tarantula loose on him. Billy gets loose, however, and as quick as you can say, "SHAZAM!" old Spidey is in the joint. Says Billy to his listeners: "Well, folks, Spider Man is now in jail! He over-reached himself and went after too big a fly---Captain Marvel!" Another Great Moment in Comic History from COMIX WORLD.

# 'Head shop' crackdown

**FREMONT — An ordinance aimed at halting the display of drug paraphernalia in so-called "head shops" and record stores frequented by young people was unanimously approved Tuesday night by the City Council.**

**The law, which goes into effect immediately, is similar to one adopted by Pleasanton.**

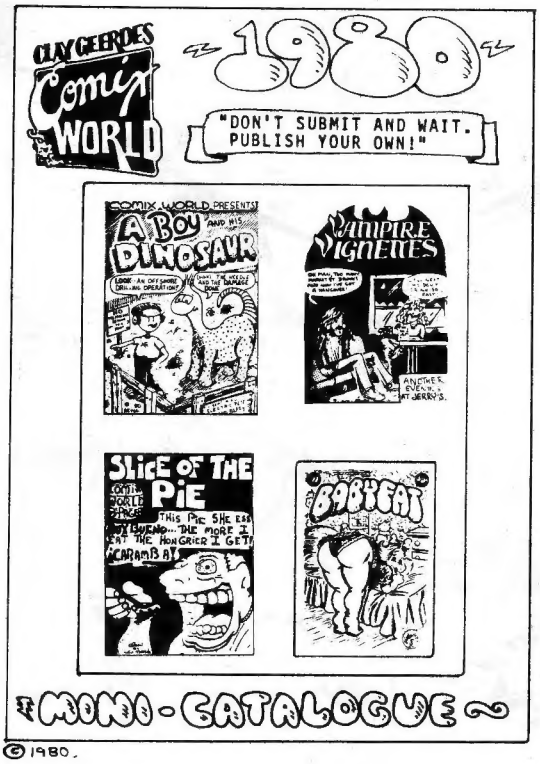
**It does not ban the sale of such things as roach clips, cocaine spoons and bong pipes, but does severely restrict their display and youths' access to them.**

**The state Legislature is currently considering a bill that would govern the sale of such items.**

**The city staff has communicated with legislators and other authorities expressing strong support for state action to ban the drug paraphernalia from being sold to youths.**

You mini-publishers get your pages in for the collector's guide. I want to get that guide out by January 1 and there's a lot of work to do. Don't let me down. The mini-catalogue below is available to all mini-artists for a stamped envelope. Anyone else who wants one, it's the usual 50¢ plus stamp.

-clay




**ALTERNATIVE NEWSPAPERS soft-pedal radicalism, seek affluent readers.**

Boston's famous Real Paper still lambasts the Establishment and runs eccentric personal ads ("Uppity Female Wanted"). But it also recommends the poached salmon and strawberries Romanoff at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The paper changes format, prints a fall fashion guide on slick paper and offers more practical advice. It budgets $100,000 for promotion to attract more affluent, somewhat older readers besides its core of student fans.

Many alternative papers start special sections devoted to food and recipes, careers, music, education and home furnishings. L.A. Weekly, a two-year-old alternative paper in Los Angeles, has a leftist political perspective, but devotes half of its space to arts and entertainment listings. "The times have passed for a primarily political approach," says Tracy Johnston, managing editor.

*William D. Scott, publisher of Real Paper, adds: "Ten years ago, readers were interested in the war and politics. Now they ask what kind of jobs are available."*